

JANUARY

Magic Lantern Society

NEWS 2025



Be Sure to LOOK for those Buttons and
roll-over effects



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The Magic Lantern Calendar –January 2025

Events

Jan. 25, 2025, **Annual General Meeting**, Magic Lantern Society (UK), The Musical Museum, 399 High Street, Brentford, London TW8 0DU, England.

Jul. 17 – 31, 2025, **Harper Thursday and the Magic Lantern**, a theatrical adventure, this enchanting production invites families to embark on a journey filled with wonder and imagination. The Common Room, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1SE, England.

Through 2025, **Project Space** Residency, featuring Melissa Ferrari, Visual Studies Workshop, 31 Prince Street, Rochester, NY 14607.

Sundays through Thursdays, **Salem on Foot: Magic Lantern Tour**, rare and strange images projected upon shadowy walls and darkened streets, bringing life to tales of ghosts and witchcraft and murder. Derby Square, Downtown Salem, MA.

Exhibits

through Jan. 17, 2025, **Acts of Projection**, showing U.S. Civil War artifacts of lantern shows – hand- painted slides and period projectors, as well as the actual projections to stimulate the original viewing experience. Anderson Gallery, College of Arts and Sciences, Drake University, 2507 University Ave., Des Moines, IA 50311.

Through Jan. 19, 2025, **In Your Wildest Dreams: Ensor Beyond Impressionism**, focusing on James Ensor's fascination with masks, skeletons, and caricatures, lanternists Ditmar Bollaert features a chamber theatre with continuous video projection, royal Museum of Fine Arts, Leopold de Waelplaats 1, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium.

Through Dec. 29, 2025, **Im Zauber des Lichts – Bildwelten der Laterna Magica: Magic Lantern and Toy Lantern Slide exhibition**, Freilichtmuseum Hessenpark, Laubweg 5, 6126 Neu-Anspach/Taunus, Germany.

Through Feb. 23, 2025, **Dartmoor: A Radical Landscape**, includes magic lantern slides, Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Queen Street, Exeter EX4 3RX, UK.

continued next page

Calendar –continued

Online

Magic Lantern Performing Group, Improve your skills every other Wednesday on Zoom. Contact Terry Borton: tborton@magiclanternshows.com

Media History Digital Library, <https://mediahistoryproject.org/collections/magic-lantern/> Magic lantern ephemera.

De Luikerwaal Dutch Virtual Museum, <https://www.luikerwaal.com/> Magic lantern history, pictures, stories.

Lucerna – the Magic Lantern Web Resource, online database collaboration covering all aspects of magic lanterns. <http://lucerna.exeter.ac.uk/>

The Museum of American Magic Lantern Shows, 5-minute intro, 10-minute Highlights Tour, 30-minute In-Depth Tour and Kids' Page. www.magiclanternmuseum.com

To add your magic lantern show, exhibition, or other event to our calendar, or to list your show for potential bookings, drop a line to briandrogers@gmail.com.

Asking About Slide Dealers

From Patrick Rafferty

patrickra29@gmail.com

Happy Holidays,

I collect magic lanterns slides of the Mission Inn, Riverside, CA. My only source for slides has been eBay. I am hopeful you may be able to point me in the direction of dealers who sell such slides.

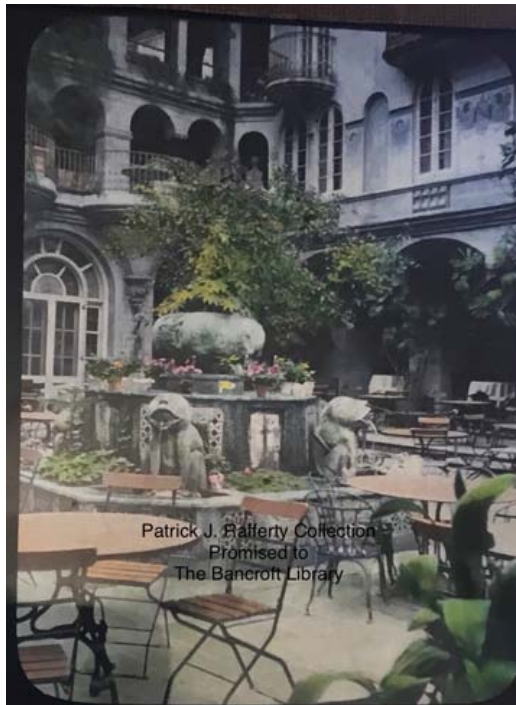
Thank you for your kind assistance,

Patrick Rafferty
San Francisco

Dear David,

Thank you so much for your kind reply to my inquiry. I would be interested in learning how I would go about asking members about sourcing Mission Inn slides.

I've been collecting Mission Inn ephemera since 1977. I was a much younger person then and volunteered with Esther Klotz and the artifacts committee. The hotel was in a treacherous financial position, with the possibility of demolition. Esther's artifacts group and the Friends of the Mission Inn, a group of concerned citizens, focused on saving the Inn. The artifacts committee searched the building to secure and stabilize artifacts and art. We also did more pragmatic things like furnishing and expanding the inventory of hotel rooms available to rent. It was hard work for a small group of hands on volunteers.



Spanish Patio. Circa 1920.

The Inn has been an important place to me my entire life. I have amassed a large collection of ephemera, and more recently magic lantern slides. I have found that the slides offer much more detail than post cards or photographs. It's interesting to me to see the buildings changes from the early 1900's to the mid 1930's.

My collection has been promised to the Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley where it will be a resource for generations to come.

Warmest regards,
Patrick



Magic lantern Slide Dealers

Please contact
Patrick Rafferty
patrickra29@gmail.com

From David Evans

Hello Patrick

Thank you for contacting us. The only slide dealer I know of was Tom Rall but I believe he has now retired. You could put a wanted note in our e-publication so that if any of our members have anything suitable they could contact you.

Regards

David Evans

INFORMATION

Wanted

What Is the Purpose of These Slides



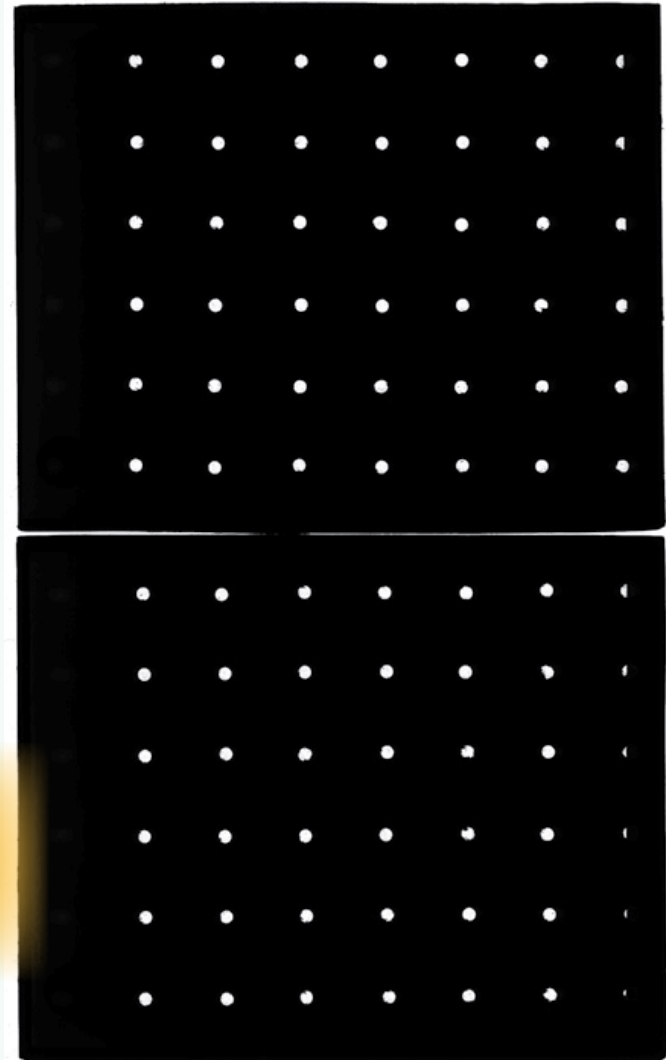
From David Evans

Hi Larry

I found these slides recently, but not sure of the purpose. As they are an identical pair, I assume they would be used to set up a binocular lantern - possibly checking it for astigmatism or some sort of lens distortion? Has anyone seen this sort of thing before?

Regards
David

Please share any information
you have about this inquiry
also send to
DAVID
DWinwoodEvans@aol.com



Help in Identifying - and Selling on - an Inherited Product

From Jon Coles

joncoles1@gmail.com

Hello Magic Lantern Society team

Wishing you all the seasons greetings from the UK.

With both my parents having passed, whilst clearing their home, I have inherited this unit and would be very grateful if you might be able to please advise;

1. What is this unit?
2. What was it used for?
3. Who the manufacturer was?
4. Roughly when it was manufactured?
5. Whether it is part of a bigger piece of projection equipment?
6. Whether it has any commercial value and where I can look to try to sell it to any one in the Magic Lantern society?

With sincere thanks

Jon

Hi David

Many thanks indeed for taking the time to respond, very good of you.

I hope that these pictures are helpful.

Regards



From David Evans

Hello Jon

Well, undoubtedly it is a magic lantern projection lens of some sort, but it is impossible to say what sort without further information. It would date from about 1880 to 1910, probably, but there were many makers of lenses, so can't suggest any particular one. Could you send me pictures of the front, with the lens cap raised, and the larger end, so that we can see if it has glass lenses in it? It would have some commercial collector value, but how much would depend on what exactly it is.

Thank you for contacting us.

David Evans



What's in a Name?

MORE on article
from
January 2024 E-pub

From Karl Link

And another set of ML and stereopticon entries from an old dictionary. This time it is a 1928 copyright version of "Laird and Lee's Webster's New Standard Dictionary of the English Language."

Finally, I want to thank you for keep doing the epub. Another year and you are still producing a great piece, and represent an important part of our society's activity. Have a wonderful Christmas, and here's to wishing you'll live for at least 100 years and be in the best of health, too. Cheers, Karl



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CHICAGO

stereopticon (ster-ē-opt'i-kon), *n.*
Double magic lantern producing dis-
solving views.
stereoscope
(ster-ē-ō-skop),
n. Optical
contrivance
by which two
flat pictures of
the same object
are seen as one
and as having
an appearance
of solidity and
reality. — **stereoscop'ic**, **stereo-
scop'ical**, *as.* — **stereoscopy**, *n.*
[Gr. *stereos*, solid, and *skopeo*, see.]



Stereoscope.

magic (maj'ik), *n.* Pretended art of
producing marvellous results, gener-
ally by evoking spirits; enchantment;
sorcery. [Fr. See MAGI.]

magic (maj'ik), **mag'ical**, *a.* 1. Per-
taining to, used in, or done by, magic.
2. Imposing or startling in perform-
ance. — **mag'ically**, *adv.* — **Magi-
lantern**, optical instrument which
throws a magnified image of a picture
on a screen.

magician (ma-jish'an), *n.* One skilled
in magic; sorcerer; necromancer.

Donation to the Library of Congress

From Tom Rall

marketflea@aol.com

David and Larry,

Attached is the outline of my recent donation to the Library of Congress ("for the benefit of the American people," according to the gift agreement jointly signed by me and a Deputy Librarian).

The donation process was overseen by Michelle Smiley, PHD, Associate Curator of Photography, Prints and Photographs Division, who I am copying on this email. Of further potential interest to the society, she was actually assigned the task of identifying lantern slides in the national collection and said writing an article on the research for publication sometime in the future would be of interest.

In the meantime, feel free to use the outline for either our online or print publications, as you see fit. Of particular interest please see page 7 in reference to collection research.

Though none of the images were yet digitized an online reference to the donation was posted here:

<https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2024631054/>

Sorry I missed the convention but hopefully I can attend again in the future.

Tom

Tom Rall, Director
Diverse Markets Management
4500 S Four Mile Run Dr. #1001
Arlington, VA 22204
marketflea@aol.com
703-380-7886

The Tom Rall Collection Donated to: Library of Congress, Prints and Photography Division

2024

INTRODUCTION:

This is a somewhat unique generalist collection of a particular genre of photographic collectibles: the lantern slide. An early offshoot of the invention of the photographic image in the late 1830s, the lantern slide arrived in the late 1840s and was named after the centuries old history of the projected image by the Magic Lantern.

This collection dates primarily from the Mid-19th through the Mid-20th centuries, after which the lantern slide gave way to color film slides, following the introduction of Kodak's "Kodachrome" in 1935. The collection focus is two-fold. First, the history of photography as it was recorded by the lantern slide in the United States, and, secondly, the history of projection, especially in the late 19th and early 20th centuries prior to and in association with the development of the movies from the vaudeville/nickelodeon era through the "Silents" and into the "Talkies."

COLLECTION FORMATION;

The collection was formed by an ex-newspaperman with an interest in photography who became an antiques dealer/flea market exhibitor and founded The Flea Market at Eastern Market on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. in 1984.

The first purchases for what was to become the collection were made there about 1995 and for the next 25 years the search, purchase, research and resale of thousands of lantern slides financed the collection development.

A Lantern Slide (L.S.) is defined here, in general, as a positive photographic image printed from a negative on glass. A paper mask is applied around the positive print, separating it from a cover glass, the whole secured by taped edges. There are primarily two L.S. sizes in the collection.

The majority is 3 1/4" X 4", considered the American standard; some are 3 1/4" square, considered the British/European standard. All are either B&W or hand-colored images.

When the collection was started, material for storage and preservation was commercially available only in a slightly larger format specific to the more ubiquitous postcard (3 3/4" X 5 3/4"). So, each L.S. is protected by either polyethylene or polypropylene sleeves of that size. Likewise, identifying plastic dividers and storage boxes for postcards were used. Each box is a lidded 7" X 4 1/2" X 15". The bulk of the collection is stored in 25 of these, holding about 100 L.S. each.

AN INVENTORY:

Box 1: Advertising slides, used in theaters Circa 1900-1950, promoting products (automotive to watches) sold by merchants throughout the U.S. Of particular interest are ads for "Kodaks and Supplies", each of which includes a professionally-shot snapshot-like photo. Also of note are reelection ads for Pres. Woodrow Wilson, "who with honor has kept us out of war."

continued next page

Donation to the Library of Congress continued

Box 2: African-American. Primarily southern occupational and domestic settings, but also including some racist-depictions intended to be comedic. Alaska.

Box 3: Americana. America's Cup. Announcements. The latter cover a range of messages to audiences: "Don't Spit on the Floor," e.g.

Box 4: Arizona. Autochromes (just a few examples of this early color process, whose images are too dense for optimal projection). Beheading (in China). California. Civil War (a few from Matthew Brady's D.C. studio, E. & H.T. Anthony in NYC, and Taylor and Huntington of Hartford, CT.)

Box 5: Civil War (several by T. H. McAllister, NYC, a major distributor to itinerant lecturers around the turn of the century). Civil War Misc. The Misc. category refers to lesser-known and/or unidentified makers. Circus. Colorado.

Box 6: Coming Attractions. Of note is the earliest Charlie Chaplain film and some slides which are the only existing images of a movie listed in the Internet Movie Database (IMDb). Cowboys. Ashel Curtis.

Box 7: Dakotas, Detroit Photographic, and D.C., reflecting the regional emphasis of the collector, round out the box, into Box 8 for about half box concluding in Expos, beginning with the U.S. Centennial, 1876, continuing through "Great Lakes", 1935.

Box 9: Expos. The 1893 "Columbian" is the

largest category group. R. W. Fairbanks, a geologist located in Berkeley, CA. Florida. Gambling. Hawaii. F. J. Haynes, (from both his Fargo and St. Paul photographic studios.)

Box 10: Haynes Yellowstone. Lewis Hine (for the National Child Labor Committee). Idaho. Illinois. Instructional (related to Hand Coloring L.S.)

Box 11: W. H. Jackson, primarily from his Denver studio for his Rocky Mountain Scenery series, and a trip (accompanying Lecturer John Stoddard) to Mexico. Johnstown Flood. Kentucky. Kilburn Brothers. Levy/Ferrier (U.S. and Canada by the French firm.) Maine.

Box 12: Markets, (U.S. and World). Maryland. Massachusetts. McFarland, (J. Horace, Harrisburg, PA.) Michigan. Minnesota. Mining. Montana.

Box 13: Missouri. Nebraska. New Hampshire. New Mexico. New Jersey. News. News Slides preceded News Reels. The remainder of this box, followed by all of Box 14, is devoted to New York and NYC, with a large section on slums there.

Box 15: N. Carolina. Ohio. Oregon. Paddlewheel Steamboats. Pennsylvania. Photographica, mostly photographers at work.

Box 16: Poverty. Presidents. Putnam & Valentine. William Rau. Sailing. Salvation Army.

Boxes 17 & 18: San Francisco Earthquake. Song Slides, which illustrated music accompanied by the theater organist in the silent movie era, often to promote the sale of recent sheet music. More than 100 in the collection were made by the NYC firm Scott & Van Altena, which was a pioneer in the use of photographic montage and collage. South Carolina. Sports.

Box 19: Sports. Temperance, "Everyday Tragedy," an instructive story of the alcoholic decline, probably shot in Maine and, perhaps, the only remaining set. Transportation. Utah.

Box 20: Virginia/West Virginia. Washington. Edward Wilson Co., Weather. Woodbury. WPA. Wyoming. Yellowstone. Yosemite. Workstel, 2 sets of slightly larger slides, when projected superimposed would produce a simulated 3-D image on the screen.

Boxes 21-25: New York State Education Department, Division of Visual Instruction. Because the output was produced for a single state's schools, they are rarer than the nationwide production for schools by the Keystone View Co., Meadville, PA.—whose educational division was by far the largest supplier and is represented throughout many of the previous boxes. The NY slides are particularly notable both because most of the photographs are dated on the informational labels, and many are exquisitely hand-colored. The categories cover images from what are now all the 50 U.S. states, with additional African-American, D.C., and Panama (Canal) sections.

OTHER STORAGE BOXES;

8 Original Keystone Co. boxes, each compactly containing about 25 B&W & Colored L.S.; 7 "Geography Units" devoted to areas of the U.S., Alaska and Hawaii; and one "Community Helpers."

continued next page

Donation to the Library of Congress continued

3 similar Keystone boxes, slightly larger: "Child Activities," Home Life (1st semester reading), and "The Effects of Atomic Weapons," about 25 slides each.

2 similar boxes: "Historical Social Science Study Units from Historical Motion Picture Stills" ... with teacher's guide, Photographic Historical Service, Hollywood, Calif." About 25 B&W each box; one is titled "Slave Life and Abraham Lincoln"; the other: "Westward Movement." These are fairly rare, but what better juxtaposition of lantern slides and movies?

A hinged, key-locked dovetailed wood box, approx. 12 1/4" X 8 3/4" X 4 3/4", interior lid inscribed "Property of W. H. Rau, 2207 N 13 th ST." Contains about 128 L.S. many with identifying masks: "William H. Rau, Photographer, Philadelphia, PA." One slide bears a 1903 copyright. Most are B&W views of Yellowstone Park and area. Note that this box is the remnant of what was a fascinating, wood-boxed collection of images by both Rau and his wife, believed to be their personal collection, which was previously sold to a Pennsylvania-based Rau collector, previously obtained from a seller who said he had salvaged them from a Southern New Jersey dumpster!

A dovetailed, hinged slide-locking wood box, 4 3/8" X 13 7/8" X 5". The exterior top lid is hand-inscribed "Property of W. Wilson Jr. High School" and an end inscribed: "Washington, D.C." The interior top lid

contains a typewritten list of 67 slides beginning with "Union Station" and proceeding through sights around Washington, Arlington, and Mount Vernon; ending with "Egg Rolling at the White House, Easter Monday." Slide #66, "President Roosevelt taking the oath of office, March 4, 1905," appears to be missing. Labels identify the slides as from "Division of Visual Instruction, School District of Philadelphia." Finally a smaller lidded box, containing about 40 L.S., handpicked by the L.O.C. curator from a selection not previously housed in the collection, rounds out the standard-sized slides. And a lidded & hinged wood box containing Geography Unit: "Our South Land."

OTHER FORMATS: PANORAMA SLIDES

One of the rarest of L.S. formats is the panorama slide. This collection contains 75 examples, 3 1/4" X 12" each, all housed in an unique dovetailed wood box, with a specifically designed interior housing. The box is 16 1/4" X 14 1/4" X 5 1/8" and shows its age with missing key and handle and worn interior felting on both top lid and bottom. The large size reflects additional interior compartments for standard sized slides. The panoramas are mostly hand-colored, depicting primarily a Nile riverboat trip and Egyptian scenery, with other tour stops identified in Ceylon, India and Japan. Most bear a label for "G. Kanzee, San Francisco."

WOOD FRAMED SLIDES:

Wood framed hand-painted Magic Lantern Slides were the precursor of the photographic L.S. Three examples of these are included in the collection for reference. All are 4" X 7" containing inset circular images. The first is of a nude seated Adam looking up at a nude

Eve plucking apples from a tree with a snake-encircled trunk. The other two depict the U.S. Capitol, one with the original "Bulfinch" dome, in front of which Abe Lincoln appears to be sending troops off to war. The second is a nighttime Capitol view, completed statue-topped dome, with horse-drawn trolley and bustling buggy crowd in the foreground. Additionally, a fourth houses what looks like a badly-colored and deteriorating early photo of the original Capitol.

These are followed by a few similar with slightly smaller wood frames. The rest of wood-framed slides are hand-made to fit the standard 3 1/4" X 4" L.S., primarily views from a Johnstown Flood set.

Along with some copyrighted 1850s glass stereo views and L.S. by F. Langenheim, who with his brother were daguerreotypists in Philadelphia credited with the invention of the glass slide process, all these are housed in a lidded box, 8 1/4" X 16" X 5 1/4".

The majority of wood framed slides being donated are a few dozen L.S. fitted into handmade frames. All illustrate, for a short-lived "Photo Show" predecessor to the movies, a popular late 19th Century book, "Peck's Bad Boy and His Pa." Though several movies are referenced for books in the Bad Boy series, for which this was the first; there is no reference in either Wikipedia or IMDb of any projection of this original title.

continued next page

Donation to the Library of Congress continued

One of the rarest Langenheim slides was the earliest known image of the Smithsonian "Castle" still under construction in the late 1840s, which was previously donated to the Institution and was even on public display in that original building prior to a recent renovation. Also later conveyed to the Smithsonian were Native American slides from the collection.

COLLECTION RESEARCH:

Throughout the formation of this collection, documentary research was ongoing, and included much source material referencing the medium. Of specific help were memberships in both generalist and specific photographic historical societies, both the Daguerreian Society and National Stereoscopic Association (N.S.A.) deserving special mention. There was a very specific overlap with N.S.A., as most commercial Lantern Slides were made from half a stereo negative.

In terms of the history of projection, two societies: The U.K based MagicLantern Society and The Magic Lantern Society of the United States and Canada, were most important. Included in the donation are dozens of issues of the quarterly publications of each as well as some source material reproduced by both and, most importantly, "The Encyclopedia of the Magic Lantern," by Richard Crangle, Stephen Herbert, et. al. published in 2001 by the Magic Lantern Society.

STODDARD'S LECTURES:

Also included in the donation are 15 volumes of "Stoddard's Lectures." John L. Stoddard was a traveler who would "embrace nearly all the habitable parts of the world," according to a preface to the set's first volume. He began a lecture career, in which he alternated travel and lecture annually, in 1879 continuing into 1897. The lectures were illustrated by lantern slides projected by what was then often described as a "stereopticon, or magic lantern." He performed in front of large audiences nationally, being credited with attracting more than 100,000 attendees a season, and is the father of the "travelogue," according to Wikipedia.

Volumes I through IV of this set all bear an original copyright of 1897, and V through X, of 1898; followed by five subsequent volumes, bearing original copyrights 1901 through 1909. Volume X contains an index and list of illustrations for all the previous books. The supplements contain these in each edition. Every book cites a "revised edition, 1911 copyright."

Of importance to future research, it should be noted that the illustration lists do not cite either the photographer or source of any image. Nor does a cursory reading of the books reveal Stoddard himself claiming photographic credit.

In obtaining this collection, it was determined that both photographers William Henry Jackson and William Rau accompanied Stoddard during a Mexico visit, chronicled in Volume VII. Documenting the sources of photographs in the books, many presumed to have also been lecture lantern slides would make

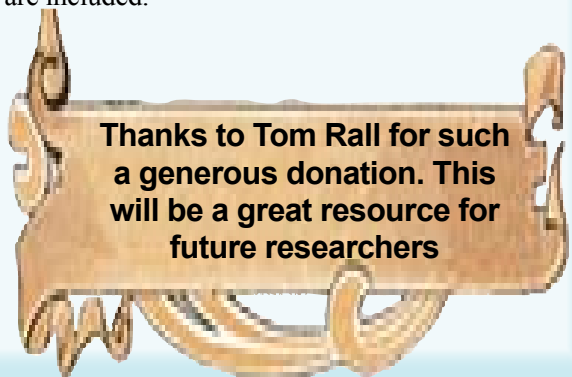
an interesting Doctorate in photographic history and certainly of projection after the invention of photographic processes.

The term "itinerant lecturer" has been previously used. Indeed, Stoddard was the foremost of these, as perhaps hundreds traveled giving slide show lectures during the period. They certainly carried on the European tradition of the Savoyard, an itinerant entertainer, who traveled on foot or horseback from town to town, many with an early magic lantern, performing shows after nightfall.

ADDITIONAL DONATION:

Also being donated are a couple boxes containing additional research materials, primarily catalogs of photographers, makers, and distributors and related materials, including advertising brochures, some sheet music for song slides in the collection, etc.

Finally, two matted and framed, about 10" X 13" Depression Era photographs back stamped by pioneering woman photographer, Jackie Martin, are included.



Thanks to Tom Rall for such a generous donation. This will be a great resource for future researchers

Chromatrobe Look a Like

From Karl Link



A youtube video featuring what looks like a kaleidoscope (chromatrobe), but what really are professionally generated fractals by James Stark at Visual Trips. See Full Album - Visual Trips

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1oIdSyriQrU&list=PL858CAUomcJAiG_dh2lsdjQtJP8IPetna&index=3

There is another one also by Visual Trips titled "Outro"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f_S2CbGD6k&list=PL858CAUomcJAiG_dh2lsdjQtJP8IPetna&index=7

A Big Thank You to the following:

Jon Coles
David Evans
Karl Link
Patrick Rafferty
Tom Rall
Brian Rogers

for contributing
to this months issue.



Visit to Peabody Collection

From Mary Alice Manella
manma@bellsouth.net

Just want to share that I was able to visit SDSU library. They graciously brought out several boxes of slides, from the Homer & Betty Peabody collection, for review of topics I was researching. It was really an experience that I won't forget.

Mary Alice Manella, Member

From David

Thank you for letting me know - that was quite a privilege!

David